

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A tree stand comprising:
a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including tree gripping means,
wherein the fluid reservoir comprises a cylindrical or frustoconical member being closed at one end thereof by a base,
wherein the tree retaining member is connected to the base,
wherein the tree retaining member comprises an aperture located at a connection between the retaining member and the base ~~located on a side adjacent to a base of the tree retaining member and the tree retaining member comprises~~ a substantially cylindrical hollow member,
wherein the tree gripping means comprises a plurality of projections arranged on the interior surface of the tree retaining member and extending in a radial fashion, inwardly from an interior surface of the tree retaining member,
wherein the projections run substantially axially with the tree retaining member and include a sharp or pointed portion ~~arranged in use to~~ at least partially penetrate the trunk of a tree inserted into the tree retaining member, and
wherein the tree retaining member is configured to hold a tree inserted therein without using any moveable mechanical means in the form of screws or bolts by resisting lifting of a tree inserted therein relative to the tree stand.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tree retaining member does not substantially protrude from the fluid reservoir.

6-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1, wherein the projections are arranged to maintain a degree of separation between a tree trunk inserted into the tree stand, and portions of the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid reservoir and tree retaining member are in fluid communication.

20-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aperture comprises a slot cut in a curved surface of the tree retaining member.